

Letchworth play host to Irish newcomers

On Saturday evening, Letchworth Roller Hockey Club hosted a friendly match against fledgling club WB Rink Hockey from Ireland. As the visiting team was inexperienced, Letchworth fielded a team composed of senior players (in age and experience, as 5 are current or ex-England players!), so they could offer coaching tips to the opposition. Both teams started the game well, and there were surprisingly few team fouls. The hosts were the first to score through Matt Cosme in the 5th minute, and he extended the lead only 4 minutes later. Ricky Jupp added a 3rd, quickly followed by Vice-captain Nigel Allen and then Captain Andrew Allen. Cosme scored his 3rd with 2 minutes left of the first half, before Andrew Allen got his second with only seconds to spare. 7 – 0 at half time.

The second half saw a more balanced game, as the Irish team developed their game strategy and started to attack more. They were first to score in the second half and by the mid-point had pulled 2 back. However, this was to be as good as it got for the visitors, as Nigel Allen scored twice more and Craig Gibson got his first, to bring the final score to 10-2.

Special mention must be made about the goal keeper for WB Rink Hockey, Paul Geoghan who, for somebody who had only started playing 7 months ago, showed an exceptional talent for this position.

Once the game was over, both teams combined for a training session, where the Letchworth players were able to share the benefit of their competitive experience, and help the newcomers to develop their match skills and strategy. It was a great occasion for all concerned, and was thoroughly enjoyed by players and spectators alike.

Letchworth Team: A Allen (C), N Allen, M Allen, B Howes (GK), C Donovan (GK), M Cosme, C Gibson, R Jupp.

WB Rink Hockey Team: Alan Buckley (C), Lisa Buckley, Louise Buckley, Corey Buckley, Mark Buckley, Ian Buckley, Paul Geoghan (GK)